Betrayal Of Muslims And Others

"Muslim League A Power To Reckon With"

MR. SUHRAWARDY OUTLINES FUTURE PROGRAMME

I have received a number of letters asking me for directions and advice as to what the Muslim League branches in Bengal and the members of the Muslim League and its supporters and, generally speaking the Muslims of Bengal should do in this crisis which has overtaken the community and the Province. The Muslims ofBengal have answered. From far and near there has been a chorus of condemnation against the attempts that have been made to humiliate and destroy the Muslim League in this Province. Muslim Bengal realises the dangers that best the Muslim League and Muslim community from all sides, and it has declared against the enemies and betrayers of the League and of the community. The resolutions mostly are on the following lines :—

Supporting Qa'id-e-Azam Mr. Jinnah, President of the All-India Muslim League, affirming allegiance to the All-India Muslim League as the only organisation of the Muslims of India and condemning all attempts to disintegrate the Muslims.

Condemning Mr. Fazlul Huq for having betrayed the Muslim League; for creating another party of Muslims and for attempting to bring about division amongst Muslims, and generally for his anti-League activities.

Condemning the Nawab Bahadur of Dacca for his wanton betrayal of the Muslim League.

Calling upon all Muslim members of the Legislature, who have not joined the Muslim League Party, to disassociate themselves from the Progressive Party and the Progressive Coalition Party and to join the Muslim League Party in the Legislature, and to oppose the present Ministry; failing this to resign their seats in the Legislature as they have forfeited the confidence of their voters and of the Muslim public.

Respectfully requesting His Excellency the Governor to disserve the Assembly and order fresh election as their representatives are deliberately flouting public opinion and are disobeying the mandates of their constituencies.

Stunned

There are some Districts, Sub-Divisions, Cities, Municipalities and Unions whose League organisations have not yet expressed their opinion publicly although I have received letters from the executives of most of them which give expression to the above views in a very forcefull manner. Many of them have declared that they feel so stunned at the magnitude of the calamity which has overtaken Muslim Bengal that they do not know how and where to start to give expression to their feelings of anger and resentment. Such organisations should, as a first step, pass resolutions supporting the league and giving expression to their sentiments, and acquaint the Muslim public within their jurisdictions how the Muslim community has been betrayed.

More important, however, than these Resolutions is the solid work of organising the Muslim League, reconstituting the primary Leagues and educating public opinion along right lines in Muslim solidarity and unity. I am recommending to the Working Committee and the Council to change the rules of the Constitution so as to enable the primary Leagues to be reconstituted in the months of January and February. At least seven days' notice of such reconstitution meetings should be given. It would be advisable for Sub-Divisional Leagues to appoint a Returning Officer for every Primary League to whom membership receipts should be issued, and whose duty it will be to enrol as members every Muslim eligible to be a member under the Constitution. Members may be enrolled up to one hour before the actual meeting is held. These membership books may be issued to other responsible persons as well, but under the supervision of the Returning Officer. The fullest facilities must be given to every Muslim to enrol himself as a member. Muslim national guards should also be enrolled in every union, the number, of course, varying with the Muslim population in the union.

Tour

Six of us, namely, Maulana Md. Akaram Khan, Sir Nazimuddin, Mr. Tamizuddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Abdul Momin. Khan Bahadur Syed Moazzamuddin Hussain and myself propose making a tour of East and North Bengal between January 5 and 22. It is intended to hold meetings and meet organisers and workers at Faridpur, Hajigunj, Feni, Chittagong, Noakhali, Comilla Kishoregunj, Mymensingh, Bogra, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Natore and Rajshahi, ending with Serajgunge. We shall visit other places including West Bengal after the Provincial Muslim League Conference at Serajgunge which is to take place on January 22. We trust that at each of these places we shall receive favourable reports of the expansions of the organisation.

Although a very serious blow has been dealt at the Muslim League, there is no cause for pessimism or anxiety. Indeed, it may well be considered to be a blessing in disguise inasmuch as it has expossed those who had joined the Muslim League for the advancement of their own personal interests. We shall now be able to build the Muslim League on more solid and surer foundations and include within its fold only those who believe in Muslim solidarity and unity and the universal brotherhood of Islam and the goal of Pakistan and are capable of making sacrifices in the cause of the community. We shall then be able to achieve such real strength that not a single Muslim however highly placed he may be, will dare to defy the united will of the Muslim community. The betrayal of the Muslim League has been rendered posssible by the treachery perpetrated by some members who pretended to be Muslim Leaguers, but who were constantly stabbing the Muslim League in the back and letting down their own community. They have only had the effrontery to do so in the mistaken belief that they can successfully defy the Muslim community and that public opinion has no sanction strong enough to deal with betrayers and self-seekers. They are hoping to disorganise and demoralise the Muslim community by offers of petty favours, such a nominations to local bodies and by the distribution of Government patronage to sycophants and favourites and persons of their own type. But although a few may stray, the vast majority will treat their offers with disdain, and loyally support the Muslim League, much preferring to forego an ephemeral advantage gained at the expense of their conscience, for the sake of securing lasting power and advantage for their community and for themselves, their children, and their children's children.

Misleading

I would not indeed be surprised if these persons who thrive on disunity even try to resuscitate that wing of the Congress which goes by the name of the Krishak-Proja Party. Or perhaps an attemt may be made to deal a still more treacherous blow by creating another Party bearing the Muslim League name, but unclaimed and unrecognised. We must set our face against all such attempts at disruption and educate public opinion to withstand the shock of such nefarious activities. The anti-League propaganda may take yet another form. at may be said that there will be more communal harmony under the new dispensation and that unity

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